

OUTING NUMBER

THE COMMONS

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Social Settlement Point of View.
ENTERED AT CHICAGO P. O. AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

Whole Number 50.

CHICAGO.

15 SEPTEMBER, 1900.

A GENERAL VIEW OF OUR SUMMER'S CAMP AT ELGIN.

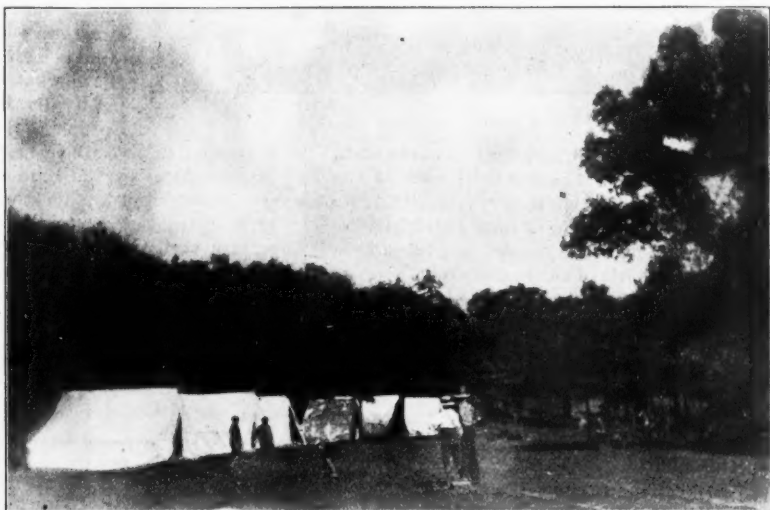
One of the greatest problems that has always presented itself to the public in every large

city, is: "What shall we do with our boys and girls?" This problem varies according to the environment. In our great cities the public school helps during the winter, but when vacation comes the child of the poor is "turned loose" upon the streets to care for himself, while the mother goes out into the world of cold competition to win bread. The child is then

left, like Topsy, "to grow up." From his birth he never sees the natural world. For a landscape of beautiful trees, grasses and flowers, he has great stone buildings. His canopy of blue sky is beclouded with smoke. His playground is the hard pavement, with the garbage box as a playhouse and a policeman as a stopcock to the safety valve. The boy cannot be a boy, the girl cannot be a girl, under these conditions. But their bodies must be dwarfed, warped, starved.

What can we expect of a child under these conditions? The great wonder is, not that there are so many shiftless and worthless men and women, but that there are so few. The child became what he is because he was deprived of his rightful playground and contact with nature. To give the boy and girl a chance only two things are necessary, and they are

just as essential to the formation of character and the growth of the body as the sun is to the vegetation of the earth. The natural child is like an engine. His life is so full of vigor that he cannot use all his energy. He must have a



THE COMMONS SUMMER CAMP, ELGIN, ILL.

safety valve. First, then, rightly direct that overflow, that surplus energy. Give him room. Let the boy be a boy, the girl a girl. In the city they are crushed. It is too true, as one of our girls said after giving our yell:

"Camp Good Will,
Camp Good Will,
We are in Elgin
And can't keep still."

"When we get back to Chicago it will be:

"Camp Good Will,
Camp Good Will,
We are in Chicago
And must keep still."

Second, love the child. One little fellow said as he nestled on the doctor's lap, and as the doctor caressed him, "My mama don't do this." "Why not?" "She works." These two principles we made the basis of our summer's work.



WASH-DAY AT CAMP.

We took out 191 children for two weeks each, in groups of forty. Located as we were on the Penney Farm, two miles north of Elgin, we were free to live, to live. Our children were from eight to eighteen years of age, taken from the boys and girls of our winter clubs.

The problem of government, so hard to meet in the city, solves itself, and with its solution in camp, we are better able to meet the problem in the city. For in camp the child, because of our close contact in eating, sleeping, playing and working, learns to know and love us. The camp thus forms a basis for future work.

What do we do to pass away the time? The question is, rather, How can we find time for what we have to do? The one thing above all others the children delight in is the bathing. The first thing in the morning we take a "dash" in the water and again just before going to bed. Then we have two

good swims during the day. Most of the children learn to swim and many to float and dive. The girls enjoy this part of life just as much as the boys.

Excursions were conducted into the country, where we observed and studied the stones, grasses, trees, flowers, birds. A large number of botany specimens were collected, pressed and mounted by the children, which are preserved at the Commons Library. On one of our excursions, in trying to explain the growth of fungi and lichens, I asked the boys what we called people who lived off of other people. A little fellow an-

swered quickly, "suburbans."

A delightful part of the day was our vesper service, when, just at dusk, we gathered on the grass in front of our tents and had our little service varied with song, prayer, stories, and talks by the doctor on the care of the body.

The children helped with the camp work, each child having his share of dish-washing, laundry work, making beds, cleaning up the camp, working in the garden and running



ONE GROUP OF BOYS—AT CAMP.

errands. As a general thing the children were very willing to do their part.

The play of the children was characteristic of their life. On a rainy day they would gather in a tent and play theater, their little souls bubbling over with delight and seriousness at "Ching Ching, the Chinaman," "Diamond Dick," "The Two Orphans."

Their favorite songs were: "The Blue and The Gray," "I'd Leave My Happy Home For You," "Just One Girl," and other popular songs.

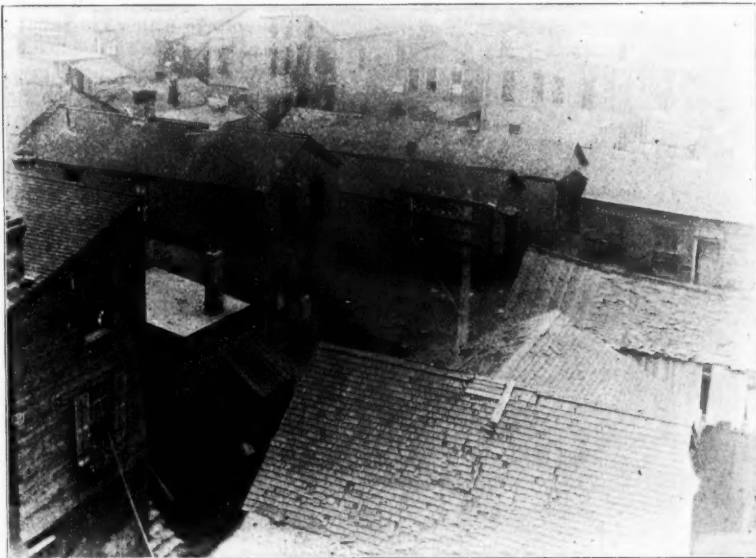
Space forbids to tell of the "sun-burned

many special camp gifts were received as we had hoped. It depends on our friends whether this feature of our work is made permanent or not. The cost per child for two weeks was only two dollars, besides the fifty cents each child pays when able. Next year we need seventy-five dollars for additional equipment. One of the most necessary things is a large dining tent for rainy weather.

We who have seen this part of the work are convinced that it brings the best and quickest results, not excepting anything we can do, for the salvation of our boys and girls in the great cities.

To see the value of this work, you need but to see how even two weeks of camp life brings the color to the pale face and a flash to the eye, a smile to the face that was so care-worn. Old women, twelve years old, became girls sweet and happy. Boys, rough and uncouth, became kind and gentle. Let us save the boys and girls to save the world.

HENRY F. BURT.



THE OPEN SPACE IS A MUCH-USED PLAYGROUND WITHIN ONE BLOCK OF THE COMMONS.

backs" from bathing, of our trip to Lord's Park in Elgin, of the results from eating too many green apples, of the feast on the crawfishes and clams, of the loss of "sky-pieces," in other words, hats, of "snitchers," i. e., tattle-tales, of all the other "sweet" times we had, or even of the punishment of cutting Canada thistles, or of depriving the careless children of their baths. It may be of interest to know that no corporal punishment was used.

Our living fare was simple, but good and plenty. We used eight gallons of milk a day and from twenty-four to thirty loaves of bread, besides eggs, vegetables and oatmeal. We had meat only three times during the summer.

Our camp this year was largely supported by the general fund of the Commons. Not so

THE GIRLS' LIFE AT CAMP.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE RESIDENT IN CHARGE.

Less homesickness was manifested by the girls as a whole than boys.

More acute homesickness was suffered by the Italians than any other nationality.

The ability of girls to entertain and amuse themselves was marked, especially through rainy weather.

The strong influence of the theater in the girls' lives was shown by their amateur theatricals, in imitation of the poor plays to which they have access, such as "Diamond Dick," "Ching Ching Chinaman," "The Irish Washerwoman," and the like. For these plays they had simply the elements of love and murder as

foundation, and filled in the details to suit themselves, but these two elements were *always* present.

Their stories included the goody-goody type, the "Daily News" story, many good myths and fairy tales, the preference being for Grimm's.

One very impressive thing was the way in which they would respond to reason when a case was put fairly before them.

Much could be said about their sweet voices and the need for good chorus work to direct their tastes from the popular street song.

Living with girls in the close relationship of

the use of the members of the club and their friends. First, of course, came the question of location. After many weeks of inquiry and consultation, through the co-operation of friends, a beautiful site was selected on the east shore of Lake Michigan, about a mile from Michigan City, Ind., on one of the sand-hills of that part of the country.

During the winter the Club had held a very successful bazaar and had in the bank \$78.00, which was to be devoted to the furnishing of our club room in the new Commons building. By diverting part of this sum from the purpose

for which it was intended, the Club felt warranted in renting the cottage which the agent of the selected site agreed to erect. So the order to build was given, and the 23rd of July the first group of girls went by boat to take possession. At the summit of this hill—100 feet above the lake, where we always had a fine breeze, even on hottest days—we have for two months had our summer home, our family ranging in number from five to twenty persons. A man and his wife were secured, not only to insure protection—the cottage being the only one on the beach and some distance from any neighbor—but also to add to the cottage the dignity of a home.

From the moment of the decision that we were actually to have a cottage the girls worked with a will to obtain the necessary furnishings, and as a result two of the most unique affairs at the Commons during the summer were our "Furnishing" and "Trolley"

parties. In addition to what the Club itself was able to contribute, many articles of furniture and several gifts of money were received from outside friends, and with the balance of the bazaar money, pictures from the loan collection of the settlement and books from the library our vacation home was made not only comfortable, but beautiful and attractive.

Forty-two girls have been at the house for periods varying from one day to three weeks, and many have been the guests.

The co-operation in the household work, with careful supervision, has been successful, and, by reducing expenses to a minimum, has made



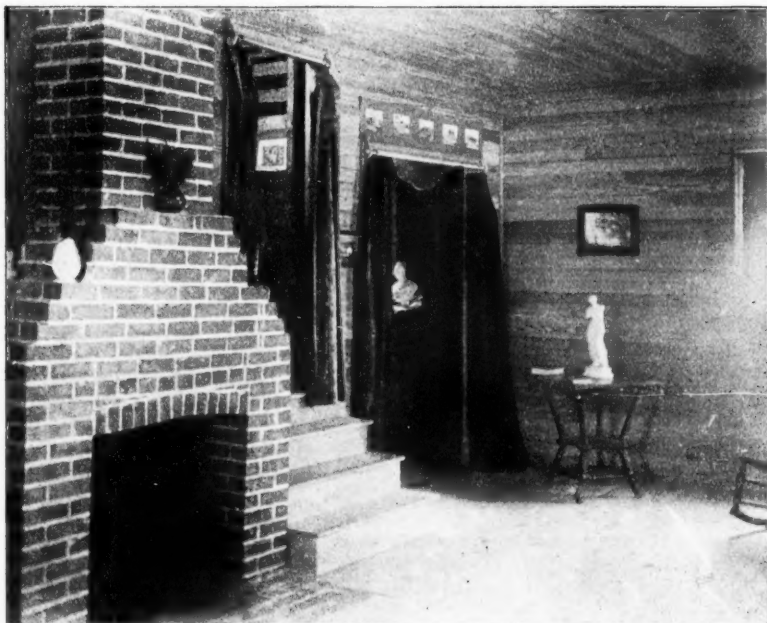
GIRLS' PROGRESSIVE CLUB COTTAGE, MICHIGAN CITY, IND.

camp life made it possible to have serious talks on the most sacred things of life, the opportunity for which a whole winter of club life, one or two nights a week, could not possibly give.

The appreciation shown in the radiant faces that looked into mine and said, "Thank you, Miss M—, for telling me," convinced me of the value of our friendship.

FARVIEW COTTAGE.

This year, at the Commons, there was initiated by the Girls' Progressive Club a new phase of its outing work—that of a summer home for



GIRLS' PROGRESSIVE CLUB COTTAGE SITTING-ROOM.

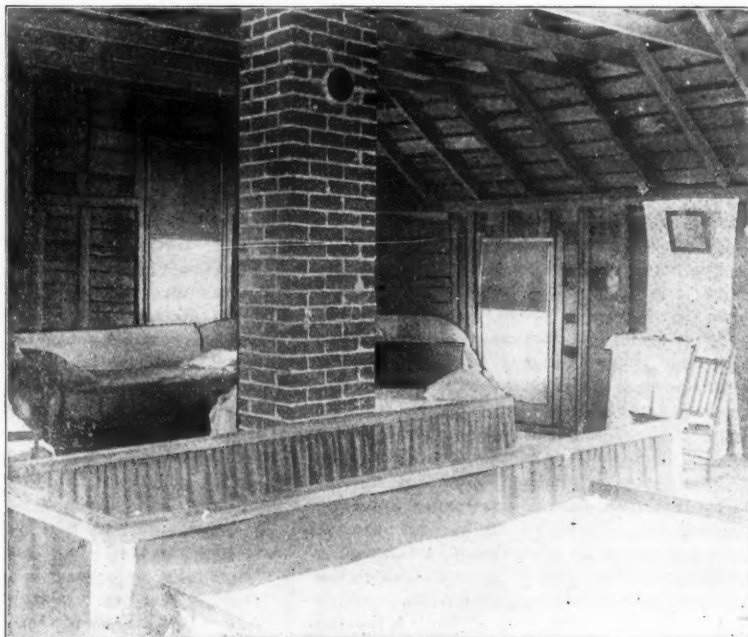
This would be impossible, however, without the co-operation of friends. The outlay would not exceed seven or eight hundred dollars.

The fine woods and hills, affording any number of tramps; the lake advantages, bathing and boating; the quiet of the remote spot, and the magnificent views of the lake and surrounding country—all have been contributory to the enjoyment expressed by each and all, and have left impressions and wielded influences not to be estimated.

CARRIE CLAWSON,
President
Girls' Progressive
Club.

it possible for many of the girls, who would otherwise have been unable, to take this rest and change.

For several years there has been a desire among the girls of the Club for a place where they could spend their vacation time in quiet, and free from the conventions of a summer resort, and at the close of this two months' experiment, we feel we have found the way to accomplish this result. It is the unanimous opinion of all who have shared the advantages thus afforded that we should attempt to own our summer home.



GIRLS' PROGRESSIVE CLUB COTTAGE BED-ROOM.



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD, NOT PLAY, BUT LIVE HERE?

OUR PLAYGROUND.

(Illustration, page 11.)

The use that is being made of the Commons' playground more than justifies the outlay for it. The space available, being merely a section of the margin around the old mansion that is the settlement home, is meager indeed, when compared with the needs of the neighborhood. Yet in this space, eighty by twenty feet, it has been possible, through the gifts of friends, to establish the modest equipment of four swings, three see-saws, an octagon sand box, a horizontal bar, and a tan-bark tumbling spot. Located, as it is, immediately under the settlement windows, the work of supervision is lessened; tho having a public playground under the windows of one's only home necessarily constitutes a problem. The playground is open from 7:30 A. M. to 7:30 P. M.; and the ages of those who use it increase as the day wears on. The groups, ranging from kindergarten children up to young teamsters and shop girls, manifest much enjoyment, one evidence of which is the cheer that the young girls originated and use, as they swing: "We like candy. We like gum. Chicago Commons is full of fun. Rah! Rah! Rah!" Use during the early evening hour is given over to the older boys and girls, and has to be apportioned, one evening to one group, the next to another. Could an electric light be erected, and a buck and a pair of parallel bars be substituted for the three see-saws, the playground during the

evenings of spring and fall would prove a most valuable adjunct to the club and class-work inside the settlement walls.

COMMONS DAY OUTINGS.

Over a thousand of our neighbors have enjoyed a longer or shorter outing this summer thro the direct instrumentality of the Commons residents and the co-operation of its friends. Thirteen park parties rallied 669 guests, and seven lake picnics took 102 along. Of those sent into the country, 15 spent one day, 4 two days, 11 three days, 48 one week, 230 two weeks, 4 three weeks or more, and 2 all summer—a total of 1,285.

CAMP FROM A MEDICAL STANDPOINT.

BY VANCE RAWSON.

Medical Director of the Commons Camp.

Recognizing the need of a wider and more vital education along physiological lines, realizing that sin is ignorance, that physical rightness is necessary for the perfect expression of spiritual rightness, we this year endeavored to make a start in that direction.

From a knowledge of the neighborhood born of residence in it, with a keen appreciation of its great congestion, of its unhygienic surroundings, with a knowledge of the many who work long and hard for barely enough on which to exist, it seemed only reasonable to suppose that the bodies of the boys and girls about us were not developing as they should, and as God intended them to.

On arrival at camp each child was given a careful examination of heart, lungs, back and the body in general. One hundred and nine boys and seventy-eight girls were thus examined, a record being kept of each one's condition.

The spirit with which both boys and girls entered into this was extremely gratifying, since it was a matter of considerable doubt as to just how it would be received. A little talk the first evening at camp put the matter to them so that nearly every boy and girl was not only willing that the examination should be made, but was desirous of it. Not one was com-

pelled to be examined, and only two out of the whole number refused it; one was a girl of about eleven years who had an extreme fear of doctors, and was almost terrified at the mere suggestion of the examination; the other was a little girl of seven years.

The ages of the boys and girls ranged from eight to eighteen years, the average being twelve years.

It must not be forgotten that these boys and girls were taken indiscriminately from the neighborhood, and the conditions found are therefore probably representative of those common to the hundreds of other boys and girls whom we do not touch.

The following methods were used in the examination of the boys: The boy being stripped, the general condition of the body, the nutrition, and body-contour were noted; then the forced expiration and inspiration were carefully taken, giving the forced expansion of the chest.

With the stethoscope, the lungs and heart were carefully examined, note being made of any deviation from normal; the back was then looked over for curvature, and the condition of the genital organs noted.

The first thing observed was that the contour of the chest, in a large number of boys, was abnormal, the chest being flat and in too many cases the shoulders "rounded;" with this, the expansion proved to be below normal for the age and size of the individual. The incorrect position of the shoulders was probably the cause of the deficient expansion, though very few knew *how to breathe*. The stethoscope revealed some impairment of the normal lung sounds in a number of cases, one naturally thinking of the tendency to tuberculosis, but it was impossible to obtain any positive signs, since this disease rarely manifests itself before puberty. The condition of the hearts was not worse than one would find anywhere among this number of individuals.

Much of interest and importance was noted regarding the genital organs.

Each group of boys was given a talk at the vesper hour, on "The Heart and Circulation," "The Lungs and Respiration," "The Alimentary Canal," and "The Sex-Function," "Personal Purity" and "Temperance." The effort was made to present simply and plainly the anatomical and physiological truth which one ought to understand in order to know how to properly care for his body. I am satisfied, from after-talks with the boys and from observation, that they grasped the truth in a right, pure way, and will be cleaner and stronger for it.

After vespers each night that the weather permitted, the boys and girls were given a series of exercises to develop the chest, to teach them how to breathe and to increase the lung capacity.

Each one's expansion was again taken just before he went home, and the increase which the two weeks of regular, systematic exercise gave was amazing, ranging for the individual from one-eighth inch to one and one-half inches, which seems almost incredible; yet it must be remembered that it is much easier for such a gain to be made by one who has not carried himself properly, and did not know how to breathe, than for one who has always observed these things.

Owing to the inability to procure a pair of scales, we could not, as we had planned, weigh each boy and girl, and so get the absolute increase in body-weight.

The examinations of the girls revealed a somewhat different state of things, tho they, too, knew as little about correct carriage and breathing as the boys. Their expansion averaged somewhat better. There were a number of cases of chlorosis, an anemia most often found among those who lack fresh air, sunshine and hygienic surroundings and proper food, which showed appreciable improvement from the two weeks' outing. The condition of the heart and lungs among the girls was about the same as that of the boys. About fifty per cent of the girls had curvature of the spine, due, in most cases, to standing on one foot more than on the other, the resulting curvature being lateral; this, in nearly every case, may be corrected by proper standing, by special exercises, or by a raised heel.

Many minor and several major operative cases were discovered, and this fall the writer will follow up the summer's work by calling on the parents of these children, talking with them about the conditions found, laying stress upon the need of correcting those conditions and offering his assistance.

The girls were also given talks at the vesper service the same as the boys, except that it was not deemed practicable nor wise to talk to them on the sex-function now, it being hoped that a closer acquaintance will bring the opportunity later.

Two weeks was the usual length of each one's stay in camp, and, short as it is in comparison with the fifty weeks' neighborhood life, it accomplished for our boys and girls much that was obvious; many who had been weak and sickly and easily susceptible to changes of weather and disease became much stronger

and more hardy. Pale faces took on a healthful glow, thin faces filled out, and the prematurely old, hungry, even starved, expression common to so many, vanished.

I am convinced, from the experiences of this summer, that we must begin *now* to educate and train the boys and girls for fatherhood and motherhood and citizenship, thus laying the basis for a strong, intelligent and useful adult life.

"As the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined," and it is appalling to realize how great a number of our boys and girls are already bent and warped, and also to realize that it might be prevented.

They should early be taught—in the schools, since but few parents are able to teach their children—the *whole* truth about the body and themselves, purely and simply, and thus much of the disease and impurity eating away our individual, family and social life will be prevented.

From contact with many boys, I am satisfied that the average boy of nine years knows far more than his parents have any idea of, and that it is not the truth, but the most injurious kind of falsehood that he has been given to satisfy his natural desire to know about himself.

We must, as a city, provide playgrounds for the boys and girls; they must have a place to express their energies; repression, by not giving them adequate and legitimate channels for this expression, means that those energies will be diverted and expressed illegitimately, for expressed they must, and will, be. The way in which they are expressed makes the difference between a "good" and a "bad" citizen.

At camp, those who had reputations in the city as "hard" cases and mischief makers were the cause of practically no trouble, simply because they had room and opportunity to express themselves, without the law or their environment saying continually, "don't."

We must also provide physical training to develop the body and make it strong and symmetrical, to make it a fit dwelling-place for the spirit, and teach the youth how to properly care for that body.

We would do well to remember Oliver Wendell Holmes' wise remark that to reform a man you must begin with his grandfather.

OUR STERILIZED MILK VENTURE.

Encouraged by the success of the Northwestern University Settlement's enterprise a year ago, to introduce sterilized milk to its neighborhood, Chicago Commons ventured to offer the same service to its neighbors. By the kind co-operation of the neighboring settlement we were saved the expense of the sterilizing apparatus and were able to supply the homes of our vicinity with the milk at two cents for a seven-ounce bottle, or three cents for two bottles. This charge a little more than covered the cost of the milk, leaving us to raise the expense for the bottles and the labor involved. The demand averaged about 100 bottles per week, and our agency in supplying the milk was greatly appreciated, especially by the mothers of sick children, who had neither

means nor conveniences for protecting their milk supply from contamination, or even for keeping it cool enough to be sweet. It is interesting to note that this practically helpful settlement enterprise was personally promoted and supported from the start by Dr. Reilly, who has so long and efficiently served the city of Chicago in its health department.

THE SUMMER DEFICIT—NEXT SEASON'S DEVELOPMENT.

APPEAL FOR CHICAGO COMMONS OUTING WORK.

While our fresh-air service at Chicago Commons has never been as thorough and effective as this summer, we regret to report the receipt of fewer contributions than usual for this special branch of our work, and a deficit in our outing account of \$250. While a large service has been rendered, it has been at less expense this year than last. The Commons Camp at Elgin, for instance, was served not only by as many residents as last year, but had the additional advantage of the expert work of a medical director. The value of his service to the childhood and home life of our community will be evident to any one who reads the interesting report of his observations, which appears in another column, and more still to those of us who are having the opportunity to observe the way in which he is following up his camp work by interviewing and counselling the parents in their homes. The insight given into the social, educational, and religious life of our neighborhood boys and girls, thro the description of camp experiences, also shows at a glance the inestimable value of the intimately personal influence acquired by our residents in the close and consecutive fellowships of camp life.

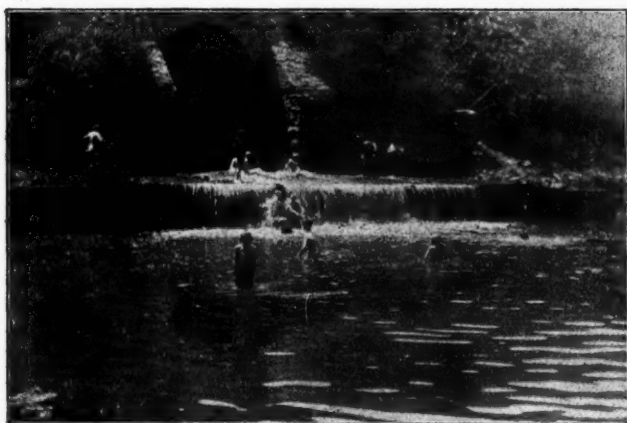
These facts, and all the others so vividly portrayed in these columns, point our appeal for the prompt co-operation of the friends of Chicago Commons in raising this deficit of \$250. Surely none of them who have enjoyed an outing themselves, will begrudge the expenditure of less than \$600 in keeping 190 children at camp for a fortnight each, and giving an outing to no less than 1,285 of our neighbors all told.

A PLEA FOR OUTING EQUIPMENT.

We need the early assurance of an additional camping equipment, costing not less than \$150, before pitching our tents for another season's work.

We need the gift of a few acres of land, including forest and stream, and if possible a small farm-house and barn as the permanent center of the Commons encampment.

We need the generous co-operation of our friends with the Girls' Progressive Club in their brave and promising effort, not only to occupy, but purchase a cottage of their own. The owner of "Farview Cottage" at Michigan City, who erected it for their use, offers the club the house and lot for \$700, which covers only the very reasonable price of the land and the bare cost of building the cottage. Some of our readers may have a more favorable offer to suggest.



ONE OF THE SWIMMING HOLES AT CAMP.

Suburban Camps and Summer Activities of the Settlements.

CAMP GOOD WILL.

And Other Summer Outings Conducted by the
Chicago Bureau of Charities.

BY CHARLES FREDERICK WELLER,
Supt. West Side District.

"This here milk," said a lad at Evanston Camp Good Will this summer, "ain't very good, because it isn't blue."

Another suggestive story is that of a tired mother, thirty-seven years old, who confessed that she had never in her entire lifetime been outside Chicago. "I never realized there were such trees and grass and bathing places. And I never imagined, even, that there were such people as you folks here who spend all this money and do all these kind

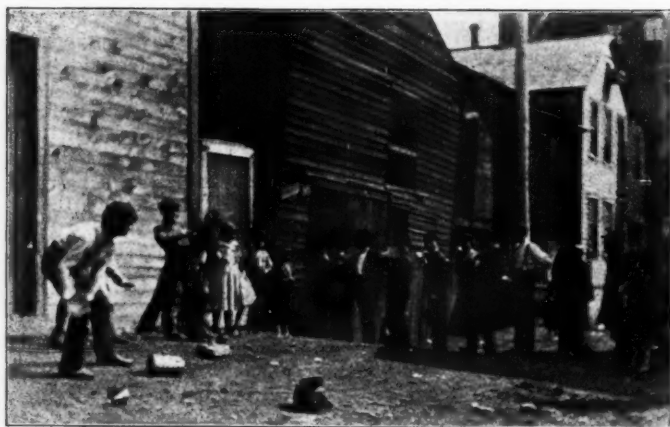
things for poor people who have no claim upon you and are not at all important." She actually believed she had discovered, in the Evanstonians who supported Camp Good Will, an unfamiliar, new species of human beings. "I tell you," she said, on the return trip to Chicago, "it has been a great lesson to me and I am going back to do all the little acts of kindness I can around my own neighborhood. For," she added, somewhat diffidently, "I'd like myself to be you kind of folks."

One hundred and twenty children and mothers from among Chicago's "reconcentrados" were taken to Evanston

every Wednesday afternoon for five weeks during last July and August. Each party remained for seven days, privileged guests of the entire town, whose every citizen was zealous to lend a helping hand. There were seventeen living tents, each having four cots, two double-deckers; this made each tent accommodate six children and one adult, with a baby sometimes added, sleeping in the cot bed with its mother. These sleeping tents had raised wooden floors, curtains before the beds, camp stools and canvas flies which became awnings, fore and



DINNER TIME AT THE COMMONS CAMP.



A NEIGHBORHOOD GAME—"DUCK ON THE ROCK."

aft, in daytime, and doors at night. There were two mammoth tents for a kitchen and dining-room, respectively, and other tents providing a wash room, two toilet rooms with modern plumbing, and a superintendent's quarters where a long-distance telephone had been provided. A large "assembly tent" seemed to the boys like a circus of their very own, and here the best amateur talent of Evanston and of the Northwestern University contributed to frequent programs, music, recitations, stories and stereopticon views. Upon the lake shore, beneath the wooded bluff on which the camp stood, there was bathing daily in suits provided by some anonymous friend of the children and there was a great bon-fire also every Saturday evening, when young men and ladies brought out their mandolins and guitars, told stories and distributed fresh-roasted peanuts. "Goodness!" said one of the Chicago guests, who worried about her family's fuel for the winter, "I wish't I had that

pile of kindling at my house."

Now, this marvelous white city of tents at Evanston, with its 600 beneficiaries, was merely a counterpart of the original Camp Good Will in Oak Park which has given summer outings for four years to children and mothers from the West Side river wards. Here, too, 600 reconcentrados were entertained, for a week each, during July and August. Both camps were supported and officered by the churches and citizens,

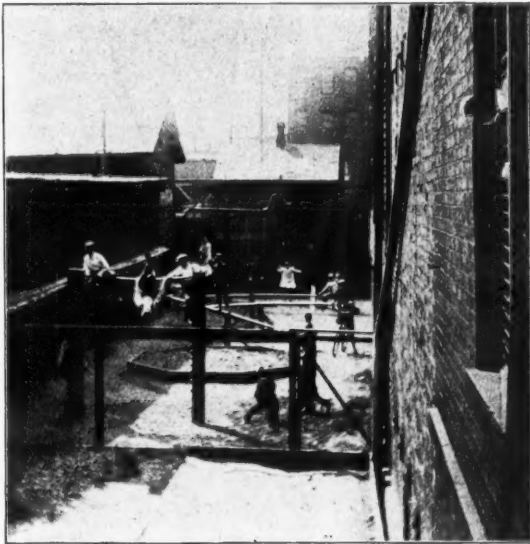
respectively, of each suburb. Each cost about \$1,500.00 for the season, if one estimates the value of all materials donated and food provided by the church committees. Each church co-operating took full charge of the camp for a week, or half a week, depending on the church's strength. During their allotted time, the ladies of each congregation solicited provisions according to the regular menu adopted by the camp committee for an entire season. These ladies also waited at table upon the needy little ones and mothers who had never, all their lives, done aught but wait on others.



A WATERMELON PARTY AT CAMP.

In addition to these two camps, to which the 1,200 guests were all taken thro the Bureau's west side office at 181 West Madison street, there was a fine camp at Buena Park, corner of Graceland and Pine Grove avenues, established and conducted by the Northwest District of the Bureau. Here fifty children and women were entertained weekly for six weeks. An amusing peculiarity of this summer settlement was that "Brownie suits" of blue jean overalls were provided for both boys and girls during their outing.

The Bureau's General Office took charge of a private residence near Plano, Ill., and sent thirty children there each week. The groups remained two weeks each, and one entire party was composed exclusively of crippled children who dragged misshapen limbs about among the trees and flowers and got some warm, brown color from the sun into their waxen faces. There were also other parties—"consignments" according to order—which were sent by the General Office to towns and farming communities throughout the State. Two parties of sixty children each were also given a week's outing in Saugatuck, Mich., at the summer camp of

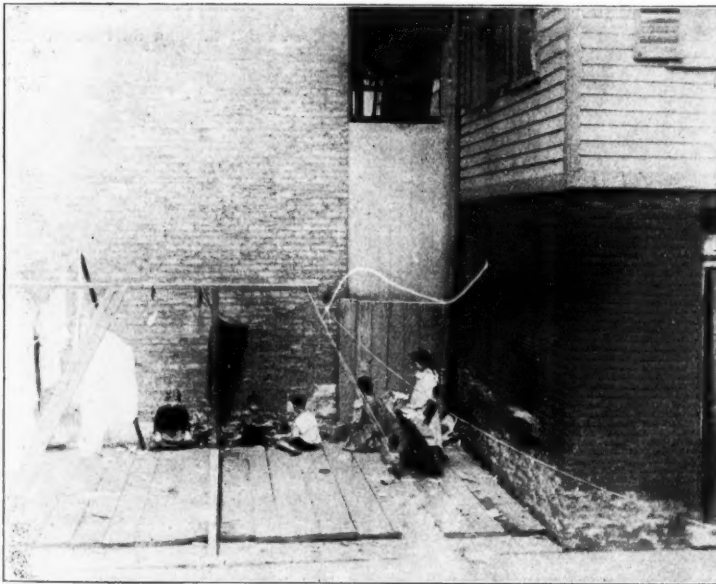


THE COMMONS PLAYGROUND.

the "Forward Movement," which was taken temporarily under the Bureau's charge.

Every Friday during July and August, 100 children, selected by the Bureau's eleven offices throughout Chicago, have been given a lake trip with a day's outing in Michigan City by the transportation company. A Chicago judge also donated 1,000 steamship tickets good for a ride from the foot of Harrison street to Lincoln Park and back. These, with 2,000 street car tickets, provided jointly by Judge Horton and the Bureau, were used in giving to entire families and small parties a day's picnic in the park.

Over 4,000 children and mothers altogether have been afforded outings this summer thro the Chicago Bureau of Charities. This involved a great deal



PLAYING IN CLOSE QUARTERS—A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE SETTLEMENT.



A CONGESTED NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE POLISH QUARTER.

of labor and expense, for pains were taken to search out, thro hidden corners of the entire city, the neediest, most friendless little folk, and no family was recommended for an outing anywhere until one of the Bureau's workers visited the home and made tactful inquiries into each family's circumstances. As one indirect result of these investigations, medical service, employment, material alms, the continued service of a Friendly Visitor, or some other permanent benefit was made to follow, in the case of especially destitute families, the week or two of country life.

Last spring at a union meeting of Evanston churches stereopticon pictures of the surroundings, homes and condition of children who needed outings were exhibited, in contrast with which views of Oak Park Camp Good Will were shown. The effect of these photographs was

so immediate that \$1,050.00 were subscribed in less than fifteen minutes for an "Evanston Camp Good Will." Illustrated lectures for which churches, schools, clubs or individuals desire to arrange, will be gladly furnished without charge whenever possible. Readers of THE COMMONS are invited to assist, by these means, in spreading an appreciation of "Social Conditions and Social Service in the Poorest Quarters of Chicago." The distinct in aim and method the Bureau and the Settlements supplement each other.

SUMMER SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES.

University of Chicago Settlement. * * *

A notable feature of the playground this summer has been the indoor work of the older children. The boys have evolved a bird house, a rude cabinet for their tools, a doll house for



VESPER SERVICE AT THE COMMONS CAMP.

the kindergarten, the girls furnishing the wardrobe for the doll family, and also dressing other dolls to be presented to children of some hospital ward. A deepening sense of the fitness of things found expression when some little strangers came into the shelter of the playground to eat their luncheon, the remains of which were found scattered about the floor in a once all too familiar way. They responded with due politeness to the resident's request for neatness by gathering up the fragments and tossing them over the fence into the alley.

otherwise have been turned away. The expense of the public bath is about \$400 per month.

One of the problems of the summer playground is to substitute in the children's games something of real value that will make for the amenities of life in place of the often meaningless and sometimes vulgar play engaged in. Some new singing games were introduced, which, in addition to the thought behind them to satisfy the educator, possessed that indefinable something which makes them go. The children are paying them the compliment



CAMP GOOD WILL, EVANSTON. QUADRANGLE AND SLEEPING TENTS.

Thereupon a hoot of derision arose from the inner circle of the enlightened. The visitors looked bewildered, but were speedily made aware of their transgressions by the assurance, "That ain't the way," "That ain't what we do," "We burn 'em."

It is to be hoped that the City Fathers are no longer dubious as to the value of Public Bath No. 3. The demand for soap and water far exceeds the supply. Altho nearly 12,000 baths were given in July and 500 or more a day during August, long lines of applicants were kept waiting their turn at the door, so that the settlement gymnasium opened its shower-baths to accommodate those who would

of voluntary and eager practice among themselves in addition to their hour once a week for directed play. The children's attitude toward the nature study excursions, and an unconscious criticism of the average school-room as well, was thus expressed; "I like it; you see you're learning something, and it's fun besides." Shorter or longer outings were given to 800 women and children.

Neighborhood House. * * *

The excursion of the boys of this settlement to see the Glenwood Industrial Farm School is a suggestive example. The people of our settlement neighborhoods and of many others

besides, see little and know less of our great public institutions.

Helen Heath Settlement. ❖ ❖ ❖

When the kindergarten children were at Lincoln Park, it was interesting to note that a familiar animal, a stray rooster, duck or sheep, elicited as much excited shouting as the less known lions, tiger or elephant. The lively curving, darting fish of the lily pond were fascinating, and the man who waded in the water

free bus connects the Sixty-third street cars with the Sanitarium, where trained nurses and physicians are in charge.

Northwestern University Settlement. ❖ ❖ ❖

The outings of this settlement are chiefly under the auspices of the several clubs and classes, whose members share their pleasure together. The picnics were especially pleasurable and profitable, in which dinner and a drive and other recreations were provided by



CAMP GOOD WILL, EVANSTON—THE BATHERS.

to cut away the superfluous leaves was an object of respectful envy. Lake Michigan was at its best and roughest when visited. For a while the children were quite quiet with awe, really being very much impressed with the picture of resistless power. When they finally fell to digging in the sand, all were found to be making sewers. The sight of a gentleman assisting a lady to her saddle and then springing to his own converted many of the children into galloping horses.

The Jackson Park Sanitarium for children is greatly valued by the residents of this settlement, who call attention to the fact that a

the women's clubs of two of Chicago's most attractive suburbs.

Gad's Hill Settlement. ❖ ❖ ❖

"The City Encampment" was established by the residents and friends of this settlement at a point in Glencoe on the bluff of the lake, known as Beck's Ravine, surrounded by fifteen acres of open meadow on one side and 200 acres of wild woods on another, while Lake Michigan bounded the eastern horizon. Seventeen tents, during five weeks, accommodated 554 guests for one week each. In addition to the delights of the outing, entertainments and

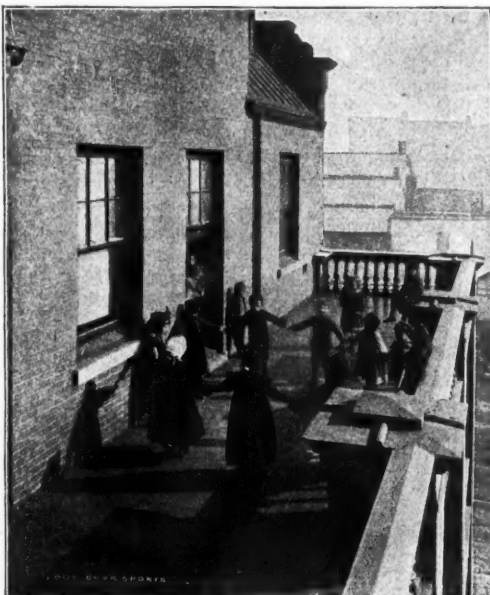
educational occasions were held in the assembly tent, which had a seating capacity of 300. A miniature Chautauqua was thus provided. The co-operation of the suburban residents in the immediate vicinity of the encampment and all along the north shore was most generous and cordial.

Mutual Benefit Settlement. ❖ ❖ ❖

Both the grown people's and the children's libraries have been kept open and used to their fullest capacities all summer. The girls of the Mutual Benefit Club rented a cottage in Wisconsin for a month, and about forty of them were entertained there during that time. The Bible Study Circle of about twenty-five members also had a house in Rogers Park for a month.

Association House. ❖ ❖ ❖

A very large playground, extending one block in one direction and half a block in another, was put to the fullest use. A trained kindergartner with assistants met the little children five mornings in the week, who gave them something to think about while they played. In the intermission of their games they heard nature talks under the large awning and sang together, enjoying also a little lunch. The afternoons are shared alternately by the girls and the older boys. The evenings are devoted to the basket ball, tennis and croquet of the young women, with whom the physical director worked. Two concerts were given on the



OUTDOOR SPORTS.

ground, one by the Daily News Band and another by a glee club. A lantern march, given by the young women, was a unique evening occasion. The daily attendance on the playground averaged about 150.

Hull House. ❖ ❖ ❖

In addition to the round of numerous club picnics and individual outings, the Hull House playground has been unusually attractive this summer. The willow trees at last cast actual shadows. A glorious field-day of summer sports closed the season with great eclat. A little band of kindergartners who visit and teach crippled children in their own homes arranged for twelve of them to spend the summer at Lakeside, Ill. The Visiting Nurses' Association supplied a nurse to care for them. The Hull House Summer School at Rockford, Ill., held its ninth successful session with an average attendance of eighty-five. Tho initiated by and under the auspices of Hull



COMMONS CAMP TURTLE-CATCHERS.



CAMP GOOD WILL, OAK PARK, DINING TENT.

House, the school meets its own expenses and has its own independent life. Its curriculum included out-door study of birds, botany, astronomy and physics, household sanitation, studies in Shakespeare, reading parties in Browning and modern fiction, theme writing, studies in Victorian literature, lectures on English poets, French and French literature, German readings, choral classes, drawing and sketching, blackboard drawing, needlework, gymnastics, lectures on social subjects.

Elm Street Settlement. ❖ ❖ ❖

The summer kindergarten has had the most marked success. Outings were given to one hundred and fifty women and children.

Forward Movement ❖ ❖ ❖

This settlement has a fine outing park at Saugatuck, Mich., seven or eight hours distant across the lake. A commodious building provides adequate dining-room and kitchen facilities with considerable space for dormitory and assembly purposes. Eight parties, numbering sixty or seventy each, spent a fortnight at the

park during the summer. In addition to the rest and play enjoyed nature studies were pursued under competent direction and religious and other meetings were held each week. For a fortnight the Chicago Bureau of Charities used the park for their outing work. A large Sunday-school Teachers' Convention, numbering over 500 attendance, was also held there. It is the purpose of the management of the Forward Movement to lease ground for cottages and tenting, the revenue from which, it is hoped, will ultimately make the outing work of the settlement self-supporting. Including the outings given elsewhere, the Forward movement sent about a thousand people out of the city this summer.

The Hiram House (Cleveland) New Playground.

A new feature of settlement work at Hiram House has been the open-air gymnasium and playground. The land is boot shaped, 90 feet by 220 feet one way and 150 feet by 78 feet another. About half of the grounds is used for games, while the other half is filled with apparatus. There are 24 rope swings, 12 baby

swings in a shady nook with benches for the mothers to sit upon while swinging their babes, 12 see-saws, 6 sand-boxes, a basket-ball court, a merry-go-round, and a large iron frame-work 84 feet long and 18 feet high. In this frame-work are rope swings, flying rings, climbing ropes and poles, traveling rings, sliding poles, inclined and perpendicular, parallel bars and a turning pole. Trained instructors have been in charge. The play idea, with its psychological and sociological value, has been kept paramount. Every morning at fifteen minutes of twelve the children gathered in a group and listened to a story. Basket weaving and raffia work are taught in the morning to the younger children. At evening time the grounds are lighted by electric lamps and are open until half-past nine o'clock. The testimony of our neighbors is that the playground has caused less lying, less stealing, less gambling—"shooting craps"—and fewer arrests. It has surely filled the lives of a great many young people with healthful recreation, making them struggle to be master in the games, and developing their constructive powers. This is in direct contrast to the destructive, shiftless life of the street. The first page of "*Hiram House Life*" for May gives a scene in Hiram House playground. The July number of the same interesting bi-monthly contains illustrations of groups of children at play in the grounds. Fifteen hundred dollars have been expended in fitting up the grounds.

The Cambridge House *Magazine* for August contains an interesting account of the House Flower Show and Exhibition held at Cambridge House recently. The work began with the giving to the children in May last plants, with instructions as to the method of caring for them. The flower show was reported a great success, the children of the neighborhood evidencing great pleasure and interest in the work.

Welcome Hall, Buffalo, has added to its fine building equipment a spacious and well-equipped playground, immediately adjoining the settlement building.

Cambridge House has established a "Home of Rest" for the tired mothers of the neighborhood. The "home" looks out on the sea, and here the mothers are given a vacation of from two to three weeks where they may be free from the cares of the city home-life. Books, games, and music are provided for the entertainment of the visitors. A very successful summer's work is reported.

"Camps and Weather," in the Cambridge House *Magazine* for August, deals with the outing work of Cambridge House. Despite many drawbacks the camping work has been very successful, and is now a permanent feature of the settlement work.

The July issue of the *Kingsley House Record* contains an account of the distribution of garden seeds among the children of the neighborhood. The work was initiated by the Home Gardening Association of Cleveland, and over fifty thousand penny packages of seeds were purchased by the children of the city.

Mansfield House is maintaining Boys' Camps near London, where the boys of the House neighborhood are given a country outing. The work has been very successful.

Mansfield House *Magazine* for August notices the visit of Miss Jane Addams of Hull House at Mansfield House Settlement on her return from Paris.

The great event at Mansfield House for August was the opening of the Boys' Club building. The building is equipped with all conveniences for carrying on the work of the club, and is said to be one of the best of its kind in London. One very satisfactory feature is that it is absolutely free from debt.

The July-August issue of *The Christodora* celebrates the third anniversary of the establishment of the Young Woman's Settlement of New York, which is doing a very large and useful work.

Hattie Tyng Griswold writes sympathetically of the work of Chicago Commons in the *Universalist Leader* for August 25, 1900, under the title, "Do You Know About This?"

The Chicago Northwestern University Settlement coffee-house has been renovated and preparation made for a year of increased activity. Courses of training in waiting on table are given, and places secured for those thus trained.

An attractive leaflet describing the activities of the Roadside Settlement in Des Moines just at hand shows that settlement to be carrying on a quiet and far-reaching service without fuss or display.

"Salvanization of Colonization" is an interesting account of the Salvation Army camp at Fort Amity, Colorado. The residents of Fort Amity have been taken from the slums of the great cities and are taught agriculture and kindred sciences and brought to a realizing sense of the value of labor on the soil. The results accomplished so far are very gratifying.

CHICAGO VACATION SCHOOLS.

BY H. W. THURSTON, SUPERINTENDENT.

Three vacation schools were opened July 2. The schools were in session for six weeks and hundreds of children were turned away, as not more than four to five hundred could be accommodated in each school. It was long ago demonstrated that children will attend these schools with gratifying regularity. The average attendance for the six weeks was 88% of the average membership. Another striking thing about the attendance was that it included more boys than girls. The work done in the schools was nature study, music, drawing (water colors, charcoal and crayon), physical training (mostly games), sewing for the girls and wood-working for the boys, and kindergarten for the little children. Nearly all the work gave an opportunity for motor as well as mental activity of the children, and it was a striking fact that whenever this chance for motor activity was lacking, the interest was less intense.

The "discipline" was almost nothing. The chance to co-operate in the doing of things, worth while from the child's point of view, controlled, inhibited unsocial action as a rule.

An excursion into the country, to the lake-side or to the natatorium was taken by each school every week, affording no less than 7,200 people an outing. The schools were visited by hundreds of teachers representing nearly every State in the Union. The instructors were enthusiastic experts in their various subjects and without such the work would be a failure. Only the best teachers, filled with a devoted love for the work, are adequate to the task.

The expense of the schools was from \$1,300 to \$1,400 each, and was wholly borne by the women's clubs of Chicago and suburbs.

Altho few in number, the schools are of great pedagogical importance. For their independent management has allowed them freedom to try new methods, some of which are proving so successful that they are gradually coming into the regular Chicago schools.

From this point of view, in these days of child-study and normal schools, the Board of Education could well afford to maintain several vacation schools as a sort of pedagogical laboratory for the whole system. Of course, from another point of view, namely, that of the overwhelming need of the children in all of the crowded districts, only municipal effort can begin to be adequate to the task of furnishing the number of vacation schools necessary.

The need of all the people must be met by the efforts of all the people.

An exhibit of some of the work of the schools of this summer will be made this fall in some central place, possibly at the board rooms in the Schiller building.

SPECIAL PARK COMMISSION'S PROGRESS.

BY A. W. O'NEIL, SECRETARY.

The Special Park Commission, since its organization under the present city council May 19, 1900, has been engaged in the work of studying the conditions and examining many proposed sites for small parks and playgrounds in the congested districts of the city.

The Commission would have been in a position to recommend the purchase of a park site or two to the city council, if it felt sure of having the \$100,000 appropriation, but the city comptroller has given the Commission to understand that the fund, less \$2,500 for expenses, would have to be cut off this year on account of the low condition of the city's finances. However, the Commission is proceeding with earnestness and zeal as if the whole appropriation would be at the disposal of the members. It is realized that one small park or playground in a densely populated district, where the people are removed from the parks and have not the time or means to reach the breathing spots, would prove an object lesson and example which would be of lasting benefit and lead to the establishment of many other sadly needed recreation grounds.

In their desire to do something, altho facing an empty treasury, the Commission has obtained from the University of Chicago the free lease of ten lots and the City Homes Association will equip and maintain this first city playground until such time as the city is able to undertake the work.

CHICAGO PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS.

For the third summer the demand for playgrounds in the school yards of the crowded districts has been successfully altho very partially met. Six were kept open from 9 to 5 o'clock daily, under the care of custodians, the most efficient of whom were kindergartners. There was an average weekly attendance of nearly 10,000 children.

Besides enjoying the play and organized games and sports, the children learned basket-weaving and sewing. The quilts they made were given to some needy family. The prizes in the athletic contests were received by the winners upon their written promise to form a group to use the pieces of apparatus awarded. The demand for books to be used on the play grounds increased. No damages to property or injuries to persons were reported. The cost was met by private subscription, supplemented by an appropriation of only \$1,000 from the City Council.

Mr. Dwight H. Perkins, representing the Architects on the Small Park Commission, has gone abroad to investigate the provision made for playgrounds and small parks in European cities.

SUMMER IDYL OF CITY LIFE.

A Chicago daily paper recently reported this idyllic story of good neighborhood upon the part of one who has modestly made his little home and its garden the social center of his neighborhood:

The one-quarter acre lawn around his modest cottage in South Troy street he has converted into a garden spot of roses and pansies. From the monotonous routine of his labors as a bookkeeper he finds time to tend and cultivate all his own flowers. That the children of the neighborhood may not have to look in vain longing upon the fragrant buds and blossoms that his three children pluck daily on leaving for their school, he is circulating as a "dodger" among the little ones for five blocks around a unique invitation.

The letter runs as follows:

To the Children of Troy Street and Vicinity:

Every child loves flowers—there is always a refining influence about their delicate beauty that is especially appreciable in our city homes. It will be my pleasure every pleasant Wednesday evening this summer to invite you to Joslyn's Golden Rule Park and distribute my flowers among you, so far as they will go, and try in my way to carry out the golden rule, "Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you." Very truly your friend,

CHARLES A. JOSLYN, JR.,
351 South Troy Street.

These invitations brought to the "park" last night some fifty-seven neighborhood children, who were unable to see that there was any good reason why they should be asked to wait until Wednesday for their quota of flowers if it was fated that the blossoms were to come into their hands "sooner or later."

There was a logic all its own in the infantile argument and the upholder of the "golden rule" forthwith "did unto others as he would that others should do unto him." He distributed the flowers that the children appealed for—the first distribution of the season—and he told his little visitors that next Wednesday they could come for more. In beavies he showed them into his library and lent them suitable books from among the treasures of literary lore in his possession. He had his little daughter sing for them and play on the piano. Fairy stories were told and pretty fables prattled.

As the juvenile visitors left for their homes Joslyn and his wife handed them specially prepared invitations for the grown members of their families to call.

They were entitled "A Card to My Friends." It has Mr. Joslyn's name appended and reads as follows:

CHICAGO, June 16.—I beg to inform you that Joslyn's Golden Rule Park is open for the season to my friends; seats are in shady spots, the flowers are in bloom, the grass is green, my library is well stocked with good reading, and I extend a cordial invitation to my friends to come and enjoy the fruits of my labor. The latch-string is on the outside and I would be pleased to have you come at any time.

I only desire to say that this invitation is bona fide and without any feeling of braggadocio on my part; that I have only a humble cottage home, but my heart has been in the work of making it as pleasing to the eye as possible, and in seeking to do my share in bringing about "peace and good will toward men on earth." In such spirit is the invitation tendered.

PUBLIC COMFORT STATIONS IN SMALL TOWNS.

Hillsdale County, Mich., has set a notable example to the small towns and villages as well as to the large cities by providing for free public "Ladies' Parlors" in the new courthouse. The reservation of the fine suite of rooms and their equipment for rest, social purposes and toilet use were suggested by the Woman's Club and are provided and maintained by the County Commissioners at public expense. They are largely patronized as a place for waiting and to meet appointments, not only by people from the country who come to town to shop, but also by the towns' folk. To leave all provision for human necessities and public hospitality to be made by the liquor sellers, as is usually the case, not only entrenches the saloons as ministrants to personal and social need, but is an outrage upon those who are thus forced to patronize them. Here, then, is a practical work for women's clubs, women's Christian temperance unions, merchants' associations, church societies or even private enterprise, to secure the maintenance of such public comfort stations, if possible, under public control, if not, at private initiative and expense, to demonstrate the desirability of having the town authorities assume this social function which is so necessary to the common weal. The exposure of man and beast in country villages and small towns for the lack of such provision is an arraignment of the common sense and public spirit of any community.

Church Social Movements.

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

BY F. BURGE GRISWOLD.

How can a child of The King
Sit in the ashes?
Whatever fashes,
To grovel is not the thing.
Up from the soil and the dust,
Quickly arising,
The dirt despising,
Seek purer place he must.

"Noblesse oblige." If we feel
The true Blood Royal,
We should be loyal,
And our high birth reveal.
The stamp of regal graces
(Although meanwhile
In sad exile)
Will show in princely faces.
The world will surely see,
Without confounding
By mean surrounding,
One's noble pedigree.
Despite earth's painful story,
The Christian child,
Pure, undefiled,
Reflects his Father's glory.

—From *The Christian Intelligencer*.

OPEN CHURCH LEAGUE CONVENTION.

CHICAGO, OCT. 31-NOV. 1.

Institutional Methods of Church Work to be Discussed by Experts at Association Hall.

For the first time the Open and Institutional Church League is to hold its convention in the West. It comes to Chicago, at the urgent invitation of a group of pastors representing several denominations who are at work in the down-town, congested districts. For the sake of their own work and that of the churches of Chicago on the densest and most destitute fields of the city these men have sought this occasion for this city. It will bring here representatives of methods that are succeeding in the East under the very conditions which are insuperable obstacles to the success and even existence of the city-center churches in the West.

The president of the League, Frank Mason North, D.D., will speak on "The Vital Relation of the Spiritual and the Social Functions of the Institutional Church." Its secretary, E. B. Sanford, D. D., will report the progress of Institutional Church work. Rev. John Bancroft Devins, a veteran down-town church worker, and founder of the Federation of Churches in New

York City, will speak of "The Church Federation and its Relation to Institutional Church Work." Rev. Charles Stelzel, of St. Louis, who has had success in church work for boys, will answer the question, "How to Reach Boys." Among other themes to be discussed are "The Need of an Economic Interpretation of Christianity;" "Relation of the Church to the Young Men's Christian Association;" "The Opportunity of Wealth and Leisure in the Open Church Movement."

MOTHERING AN ITALIAN'S MEN'S CLASS.

BY A MISSION-SCHOOL TEACHER.

Six years ago, by a curious combination of circumstances, I found myself, almost without my own volition, a teacher of a class of men in an Italian Sunday-school, with no knowledge of the language or of the nature of the people, or of the phase of life they represent in this country.

Commencing with five, the class gradually increased to fifteen, most of whom were unable to speak any English. There was, therefore, nothing but the common tie of humanity, the desire to serve and be served, to prove a bond of interest by the speech of eye and tone, and to convey the sympathy of the heart. With the aid of a simple English reader, an Italian-English testament and an Italian-English dictionary, we began, word by word, to enlighten each other, until, through the mingling of the Latin and Saxon tongues, another language was evolved, more subtle and more effective, which requires no tongue to teach but which every heart can understand. There was nothing of work, no plan or scheme, but their need, and our mutual respect and affection led to the place where the term "my boys," though their ages ranged from seventeen to thirty-five, would best express to them the relation which I desired to exist. For there is in the maternal relation a ground of equality, an interdependence, which makes one a necessary supplement to the deeds and happiness of the other, and so prevents any sense of painful superiority or galling obligation. The condition of so many young men, alone, without family ties, in a strange country, unable to speak the language, poor, and dealing often with the most oppressive conditions of labor, with the saloon, the low gambling den and cheap theater as their only resource, presented a more perplexing problem. The difficulty of successfully combating the influences of six days in the week with two hours on the seventh grew increasingly apparent. The thought became insistent that in

some way it was necessary to create a counter-acting environment, and as circumstances rendered it impossible for me to do so in the midst of their surroundings, an invitation was extended to one and another to come to my house. Having two rooms entirely at my own disposal, I felt that it was possible to make this a home center, with its essential elements of comfort and cheer, and where the mother-element of sympathy, affection, instruction or counsel might always be found. The only condition was that such a relation to me and to each other must be sustained as to make its continuance possible. On this basis the family life was founded. Every evening in the week the privileges of home have been open to them for study, reading or amusement, and the endeavor has been made to meet as far as could be understood the needs of different natures. Nearly all have availed themselves of it with sincere appreciation, walking night after night the two miles which lay between their lodging-houses and these rooms. The experiment has been continued six years, subject to the mistakes, frictions and failures which may occur in any family. The result has been that twelve out of the fifteen are to-day earnest, self-respecting young men, making good citizens, and four of them good husbands and fathers.

They have formed a little society among themselves for the furthering of the cause of temperance and purity, and show in their own lives the effect of strict adherence to the principles they advocate. In religion there has been no attempt to proselyte, the greatest latitude being allowed for individual opinion, all believing that the spiritual life is the one essential thing, and that Protestant and Catholic may mingle together with brotherly affection and mutual respect. Some are preparing for college, while others have unfortunately in early life been unable to secure even the basis of an education. While their age and fatiguing occupations prevent much mental advance, they have developed equally with the others in the moral and spiritual qualities which make self-respecting men and good citizens.

If such has been the benefit to this family of "boys," to the mother-friend has been given a loyalty and affection that has been to her so great a compensation as to cancel all indebtedness.

Imperfect as is this little sketch, I hope the simplicity of the method may appeal to some mother-heart to form a household of the scattered and often worse than homeless sons or daughters of our common Father.

MUNICIPAL CHRISTIANITY.

HUGH PRICE HUGHES' APPEAL.

According to the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, the dean of British Wesleyanism, the future of the United States is imperiled by the apathy of Christian citizens in municipal affairs. Speaking to an American correspondent, Mr. Hughes said with reference to the proposed capture of London's municipal government by non-partisan forces:

"The great cities of the United States are cesspools of political corruption. The nation's splendid institutions are in mortal danger from the hydra-headed combination of greed and autocracy. Christians must begin to do something to bring about the kingdom of God on earth for which they are praying.

"The conditions prevalent in London are not entirely dissimilar to those in the United States. The need of a civic conscience in municipal Christianity is quite as urgent here.

"The system of borough governments which will be inaugurated during the coming autumn, should induce the Christians of the metropolis to rise to the full height of their potentialities. Until they are fired with sufficient municipal patriotism to divorce local issues from imperial politics and to elevate to office men of principle, good government will continue an iridescent ideal."

Mr. Hughes, in conjunction with the bishops of London and Rochester, the chief rabbi of London and other denominational leaders, has issued an appeal to the voters to interest themselves actively in the approaching municipal elections.

THE PLOWMAN TO HIS BRETHREN.

BY JOHN P. SJOLANDER, IN *The Independent*.

We own no masters, we that walk with God
In workday garments smelling of the sod;
We bear no yoke that others must not bear,
Except of greater love and tenderer care;
We bow not down with burdens on us laid,
But lift them up for whom the load was made;
For upright must we be and stand erect,
The almoners of God to His elect.

Not ours to judge who 'tis that makes demands,
Ours but to see the piteous, outstretched hands;
For unto us the cotters be as kings—
All—all in need of what the harvest brings;
And be that what it will, we must be just,
For it is only given us in trust:
We will not question whose the cry or call,
But be God's almoners to one and all.

THE COMMONS.

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor
from the Social Settlement Point of View.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - - - EDITOR.

Published monthly from CHICAGO COMMONS, a Social
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see "Publisher's Corner."

FROM "THE SYMPHONY."

BY SIDNEY LANIER.

"But oh, the poor, the poor, the poor!
That stand by the inward opening door
Trade's hand doth tighten evermore,
And sigh their monstrous foul-air sigh
For the outside air of liberty
Where Nature spreads her wild blue sky
For Art to make into melody!

Thou Trade! thou King of the modern days!
Change thy ways,
Change thy ways.
Let the sweaty laborers file
A little while,
A little while,
Where Art and Nature sing and smile.

EDITORIAL.

THE facts, which we take great pleasure in reporting in this outing number of THE COMMONS, are heart-cheering evidences of the rapid growth of the social consciousness of Chicago and of the great increase of those sweet amenities, to promote which the settlements stand in between. But they are only the intimations of the civic and social progress which in ever-broadening and deepening lines will make illustrious the first decade of the city's new century growth.

LABOR DAY in Chicago was celebrated in a manner most creditable to the dignity, conservatism and magnitude of the trades unions of the city. Despite the extraordinary irritations and suffering endured with surprising and impressive patience by the thousands of locked-out building trades workmen, the great parade was as notable for the absence of any expression of bitterness as it was for the loyalty it manifested to the fundamental principle of unionism in defence of which many of the rank and file have sacrificed so much and so long. The impartial hearing given both Mr. Bryan and Gov. Roosevelt was worthy of the carefully prepared and respectfully strong utterances of each of these distinguished speakers. They really vied with each other in contending that the workman's "possibilities must be as unlimited as his aspirations," in Mr. Bryan's phrase, and in Mr. Roosevelt's, that "it would be impossible to over-estimate the far-reaching

influence of, and on the whole the amount of good done through the association of those who have learned the great lesson of acting in combination." The latter manfully rebuked "the tendency of each man to keep isolated in his own little set" and robustly plead for our people "to be thrown together where they act on a common ground, acquire a general respect for one another from which there must finally come fair play for all." All of which is good settlement doctrine.

BLISS PERRY, the new editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, speaking of Kipling at Chautauqua, said his consummate gifts are "yoked to a political philosophy which is barbaric; the philosophy of a barbarian who is ignorant of history, who deliberately repudiates and sneers at the best lessons which history has taught; a philosophy which runs absolutely counter to those great, broad, liberal, human principles which Thomas Jefferson, Henry Clay, and Daniel Webster enunciated and implanted. You can take your choice, but you must choose between one or the other. Either Whittier is right, and Longfellow is right, and Lowell is right, and Kipling wrong, or else Mr. Kipling is right and those men are wrong. But there can be absolutely no compromise between the views of life which tell you that might makes right, that the individual and nation have a right to all that they can get and hold and keep, and the art of our own God-fearing, gentle-hearted Christian American poets, who were far more interested in the kingdom of heaven than they were in any empire that can ever be built upon earth."

AS THE COMMONS is published not for profit, not even at cost so far, but for the sake of the cause which the settlement serves, we can the more confidently appeal for the help of its 3,300 subscribers in extending its influence and usefulness. Sample copies will be sent to addresses furnished us. Some of our readers pay for additional subscriptions taken for others whom they wish to interest or assist in social service. A few contribute toward the loss to the settlement funds at which it has been sent on its way these fifty months. Many assure us it is the only paper "every line of which they read." The contributors to its columns are the busiest of people, many of them widely known as specialists, who thus gratuitously serve the common cause. Increasing recognition is given by the press and the people to the real value of the service THE COMMONS is rendering. Perhaps, for its own sake, it deserves support.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

CHICAGO COMMONS' Educational Classes

AND

Social Clubs

FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.
(FEES NOMINAL.)

Begin October 1 at 140 North Union Street, and also
at Grand Ave. and Morgan St. after December 1.

DETAILED SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS AFTER CLASSES ARE FORMED.

Apply for information and membership in person or by
correspondence at 140 North Union Street.

Permanent Settlement Appointments.

DAILY

All Day—House open for neighbors and friends.
9:00-12:00 a. m.—Kindergartens (except Saturday and
Sunday) at both locations.
2:00-5:00 p. m.—Kindergarten Training Classes.
7:00 p. m.—Household Vespers (except Saturday).

WEEKLY

Progressive Club for Young Women—Monday evenings.
Woman's Club—Tuesday, 2:00 p. m.
Free Floor Labor Discussions—Tuesday evenings.
Children and Adults' Chorus Singing—Thursday after-
noon and evening.
Clubs and Classes for Boys and Girls—Kitchen-garden,
cooking classes, manual training; Penny Provident
bank, mothers' meetings, dressmaking and millin-
ery taught; classes in Literature, Language, Mathe-
matics, History, and Music as demanded.

SUNDAYS

Pleasant Sunday Afternoons with music, pictures and
brief, bright, brotherly talks. One hour: 4-5 o'clock,
sharp. Beginning in New Building.

Tabernacle Appointments.

Family Service with Sunday School—10:00-12:00 a. m.;
People's Hour—8:00 p. m., Sunday.
Neighborhood Men's League and Young Men's Club—
Monday, 8 p. m.
Fellowship Meeting—Wednesday, 8 p. m.
Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society—Thursday, 2 p. m.
Endeavor Meetings—Friday evening.
Choir Rehearsal—Saturday evening.

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THE COMMONS

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Chicago Commons.

OUR NEW BUILDING.

PARTLY READY FOR USE DECEMBER 1.

**\$5,000 LACKING TO COMPLETE INTERIOR—
\$20,000 NEEDED TO BUILD
RESIDENCE WING.**

It is gratifying to report that the Morgan street wing of our new building is at last roofed, inclosed, and is being finished, without any breach of our faith either with workmen or contractors and without any dispute between them over our work, despite the long and serious lockout in the building trades, which is still unsettled. We are assured that the first three floors, including the provision for the boys' clubs and manual training, the large assembly hall for settlement and church uses and the kindergarten and Sunday-school rooms, will be ready for much needed use the latter part of October. For that both the settlement and church workers are very grateful. But for the lack of only \$5,000 with which to finish the floors containing the dwelling rooms for six resident workers and the gymnasium, the whole work in the new building will be severely crippled. For the very soul of the settlement work is the household life of its residents. It is a great pity to start the work there without giving the best first impressions of its true spirit. Moreover, the lack of money with which to erect the Grand avenue wing, which shelters the home center of the entire group, threatens to deprive the work in the new building of its family character and home-likeness for another entire year, during which our treasury must suffer the strain of carrying the rent of the old residence, and the expense of maintaining the two large buildings. If the \$25,000 needed to complete the plant could be assured before December it would be ready for occupancy before May, when, otherwise, our lease upon our old Union street house must be renewed.

STATE OF THE BUILDING FUND.

There has been subscribed to date a total of \$26,100, of which \$20,150 have been paid in, and \$4,950 are on demand. The material and work contracted for amount to \$34,919, of which \$13,985 have been paid out. Altho delay in completing the building is only less disastrous than debt, we prefer to bear the living burden than to carry the dead weight. If twenty-five

persons would assure from \$500 to \$1,000 each, the balance could easily be raised in time to complete the plant before May. Where can \$25,000 yield quicker and larger returns in the uplift on the neediest, yet worthiest life, in civic betterment, industrial conciliation, and the forward movement of the Christian spirit?

OPENING OF OUR SEVENTH YEAR.

Chicago Commons enters upon its seventh year of service with the confidence and hope born of experience in testing the people's need and aspiration, and in offering to work with them in the service of the common life. Our respect for the capacity and character of the average man and woman grows with every year we live in our great cosmopolitan neighborhood. We seem to be only upon the threshold of the influence and usefulness of our work. We believe more than ever in the great fund of altruism, which warrants the faith that what ought to be done can be, and should be attempted. So we press on more in faith than in sight of the personal and financial co-operation needed to continue the work.

To support the work thro the remainder of the year until the subscriptions for 1901 are received we need \$500 per month, not one-fifth of which has yet been definitely assured us. For maintenance we must depend upon a large number of smaller gifts.

PERSONNEL OF RESIDENTS.

From our best summer's work we turn with confident hope to that of the autumn and winter. Altho ten of those who have worked longest and best with us have scattered to other fields of the social service, yet no less than twelve of the permanent group remain and are re-enforced by seven new residents, with several applications pending. The season opens with ten women and nine men in residence.

CURRENT EXPENSE DEFICIT.

Notwithstanding the increased expenditure which our Fresh Air work always involves and the diminished income which August always reports, the deficit in current accounts September 1st is only \$280.83. This is wholly due to our receipt of fewer special gifts to our outing account than usual. Surely the many friends and associates of our work who are returning from their vacations with new stores of health and increased stock of energy will not fail to supplement the slender means with which we have given more of our neighbors than ever a larger share than ever of Mother Nature's sweetness and light.

CALL FOR NON-RESIDENT VOLUNTEER WORKERS.

Our preliminary announcements are made in another column in full faith that non-resident workers will surely and promptly volunteer to help lead our settlement classes and clubs, or to co-operate with the old Tabernacle in improving its exceptional opportunity to become a uniquely strong and effective down-town church of an "institutional" type. Offers of service should be made, if possible, before October 10, in person, by correspondence, or thro the telephone (Monroe, 1030) to Mrs. Carr, the resident in charge of the educational classes, or to the warden, Professor Graham Taylor.

